

The Bloomfield Record.

S. MORRIS HULIN, Proprietor. Established 1873.

Devoted to Home News, Local Improvement and the Public Welfare.

Subscription Two Dollars Per Annum. Office, 29 Broad Street.

VOL. XVI. NEW SERIES. NO. 51.

BLOOMFIELD, N. J., FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1897.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

WOMAN AND FASHION.

Latest in Fur Tippets—New Styled Corset Covers—Women as Florists. Of Interest to Women.

Furs and fur trimmed garments will be worn for some time to come, although spring goods are to be seen in the shop windows. The present is a good time to buy furs, prices being out always after the first of January. One must, however, be a judge of what is likely to prove acceptable another season so as not to be left with an old style on their hands. Among the newest of fur tippets and likely to prove popular is one having a wide fur collar and a wide fur band, the great temperance crusade resulting 600,000 drunkards and leading the way to prohibition, to high license, to local option; the outbreak of humanitarianism which reformed the penal codes, which abolished imprisonment for debt, which turned the jails from brothels and seminaries of crime to reformatories and covered the land with homes, asylums, lodging houses, houses of correction, penitentiaries and institutions for the reform of juvenile delinquents; the abolition societies battling nobly in the cause of the slaves; Sylvester Graham preaching his reformed diet of bran bread and water; Mrs. Bloomer struggling for dress reform and illustrating it with the garment that still bears her name—these are but a few of the innumerable manifestations of the efforts for social betterment—John B. McMaster in Atlantic.



THE LATEST FUR TIPPET. Lets and is lined with quilted and flowered satin. The fluted collar is filled in with soft plaitings of ivory colored lace.

Although it is claimed that corsets are being slowly superseded by jackets, they are still worn in large numbers, being easily slipped on and off. Very full and ample corsets, with a full collar at the neck, find a generous patronage.

The fashion is to have a large single muff, but everybody cannot fall in with this necessity, seeing that a single one often represents a small fortune. The pouch shaped muff is in again, made of black Russian lamb-skin lined with a very light tone of rabbit, visible at either end in a rather prominent frill. Muffs made entirely of ermine have found no appreciation, but a good many black velvet ones are trimmed with straps of ermine and lined with bright cerise velvet, and seal muffs are trimmed with bands of ermine and the body slightly gathered full of ermine edging the light green satin lining. Feathered and fur are blended together this year both in trimmings and in muffs, and pleasant plumage and ostrich feathers both look well combined either with the favorite chin-chilla or broad tail. Tibet is a good, useful, warm fur, and is very often employed for muffs when the muffs are trimmed with large light colored collars and borders.

Corset Covers. Numbered with quite new things are corset covers without sleeves; also women's covers which show the body slightly without wrinkles or creases. Daintiest of all are the fine lawn corset covers, which receive their enrichment in fine lace and insertions. Some of these are in the form of the popular lace or net. Others falling below the waist line are shaped in with tiny tucks, insertion and lace and have no seams except under the arms.



DAINTY CORSET COVERS. lace and insertions. Some of these are in the form of the popular lace or net. Others falling below the waist line are shaped in with tiny tucks, insertion and lace and have no seams except under the arms.

Women Florists. "Many women make a success of growing flowers for the market, but because some have been successful it does not necessarily follow that all who go into the business will be. There must be adaptation to the business, a love of it and a knowledge of its requirements that can only be gained by personal work among plants," writes a florist in The Ladies' Home Journal. He adds: "I would not advise any woman to attempt a livelihood by floriculture until she had made sure that she had ability as a florist, and this she can only decide after an apprenticeship to some practical florist. Flower growing for the market is a business that must be studied and mastered precisely as any other business. The woman—or man—who thinks it one that can be made successful without any previous knowledge or training is almost sure to fail, for such a belief implies lack of practical business qualities, which are the first requisite to success."

Of Interest to Women. Visiting books bound in leather are enriched with gold or silver mountings. The demand for such jewelry is still great.

A fad borrowed from the French is that of wearing a clock face under phosphorescent light.

Call and see the 1897 Cleveland and Crescent at Coggshall & Smith. Open evenings. Next to post office.

CURRENT MISCELLANY.

The second quarter of the century was remarkable for the earnest efforts made by men and by associations of men to better the conditions of their fellow-men. Robert Owen preaching communism and founding his communities in the western states, in the twenties; Brisbane, the disciple of Fourier, covering the free states with his phalanxes in the early forties; the American Bible society sending the word of God into 1,000,000 houses; the great temperance crusade resulting 600,000 drunkards and leading the way to prohibition, to high license, to local option; the outbreak of humanitarianism which reformed the penal codes, which abolished imprisonment for debt, which turned the jails from brothels and seminaries of crime to reformatories and covered the land with homes, asylums, lodging houses, houses of correction, penitentiaries and institutions for the reform of juvenile delinquents; the abolition societies battling nobly in the cause of the slaves; Sylvester Graham preaching his reformed diet of bran bread and water; Mrs. Bloomer struggling for dress reform and illustrating it with the garment that still bears her name—these are but a few of the innumerable manifestations of the efforts for social betterment—John B. McMaster in Atlantic.

How an Emperor Rode to the Chase. The emperor himself is carried upon four elephants in a fine chamber made of timber, lined inside with plates of beaten gold and outside with lion's skins, for he always travels in this way on his fowling expeditions, because he is troubled with gout. He always keeps beside him a dozen of his choicest grooms and attendants by several of his barons, who ride on horseback along side. And sometimes, as they may be going along, and the emperor from his chamber is holding discourse with the barons, one of the latter shall exclaim: "Sire! Look out for the cranes!" Then the emperor instantly has the top of his chamber thrown open, and, having marked the cranes, he flies one of his grooms, whichever he pleases, and often the quarry is struck within his view, so that he has the most exquisite sport and diversion there, as he sits in his chamber or lies on his bed, and all the barons with him get the enjoyment of it likewise. So this is without reason I tell you that I do not believe there ever existed in the world or ever will exist a man with such sport and enjoyment as he has, or with such rare opportunities—"The True Story of Marco Polo," by Noah Brooks, in St. Nicholas.

The British Army. In plain English, we need a larger army than we have got at present. This should be so cannot be regarded with any astonishment. Since 1880 we have not only added Burma to India and greatly enlarged our frontiers to the north and west, but we have occupied Egypt, have doubled the area of our possessions in South Africa, have made a new empire on the east coast and another on the Niger and have greatly extended our responsibilities in the far eastern archipelago. But, though we have slightly increased the numbers of our army in these years, we have not done so in anything like the proper proportion. We have increased the empire by the area of three or four of the great European states, and we have added enough troops to garrison a couple of islands. Such economy is the merest folly. No farmer takes on a new farm of large size and only increases his staff by a boy and a donkey cart. If he does and expects the men and horses who could only just manage the plowing before to plow the new ground also, he ends by ruining his business.—London Spectator.

Old Age in England. A book on the subject of old age, published in England some time ago, furnishes some interesting information concerning centenarians. Of the 53 mentioned, 36 were females. Eleven of these were single, 5 were married and 8 were widowed. Three only were in affluent circumstances, 38 were comfortable and 19 poor. Nine were fat, 18 in average condition and 20 thin. Thirty-six had good appetites, 10 moderate and 2 bad. Fifteen were total abstainers, 34 drank a little, 4 were moderate and 1 drank whatever he could get. There were 7 hard smokers, 4 being women. The average time of going to bed was 9 o'clock, and 7 were bedridden. Twenty-four had no teeth and only 4 had artificial teeth.

A Jack Rabbit "Spread." The people of Neche celebrate their birthdays by having jack rabbit spreads. They go in for good, big dishes there. When a jack rabbit is feeling right, he can spread over 160 acres and come back and do it again while you are getting a shell into your gun. Then the big, swift dog that has been sleeping by the kitchen stove all winter chases him five times around a haystack and doesn't even catch sight of him, looking as foolish as a pig of milk. When a hunter shoots at a jack rabbit on the run, he generally hits a snow bank that isn't doing anybody any harm and isn't good to eat either. Yes, a jack rabbit spread is large and meaty and hard to follow.—Grafton (N. D.) Record.

A Story of Sir B. W. Richardson. One of the best known stories in connection with the late Sir Benjamin Richardson's advocacy of temperance tells how he had been on a visit to one of the three or four small towns in England which have no public house. Although there were 4,000 people there, although there was nearly starving. One day a young medical man came to Sir Benjamin for advice as to taking the practice, and Sir Benjamin, placing his hands on the young doctor's shoulders, said: "Take no notice of the people. These wretched teetotalers get only thick accents, but when wounded heal so fast that there is neither pleasure nor profit after the first dressing."—Westminster Gazette.

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WASHINGTON LETTER.

The American Farmer's Chances in New Zealand—Familiar Land Laws—The Maoris Dispossessed.

If any American farmer is thinking of trying to improve his condition by emigrating to New Zealand, let him take warning by a report which Consul Connolly has sent to the state department. The consul says he has received requests for information from American farmers based on reports that the New Zealand government was encouraging farm colonists. But he says: "If a man has money, he can find better land, more accessible to market and much richer and more easily cultivated in the United States than he can here. Most of the land in this country is covered with timber and a dense undergrowth. To cut and burn the bush and sow the land in grass costs not less than \$3 to \$3.50 (about \$17.50) per acre. This does not by any means include grubbing out the stumps, which are in most instances allowed to remain for a few years till they are pretty well decayed, when, if the land is required for agricultural purposes, they are taken out; but if not so required they are generally permitted to remain.

A Home in the Forest. "Every practical man, and especially every farmer, who has undertaken to build himself a home in the forest will readily realize what a prolonged and desperate struggle it is; not used he to find that it is no easier to do so in New Zealand than it is in our own country.

"While the conditions upon which land may be obtained are undoubtedly favorable to a man should have sufficient means to enable him to live while he is clearing and grassing his land, and then he should have enough left to stock what he has cleared, or, otherwise, his labor is lost. He has sufficient means to enable him to do all this, he can find better and more profitable employment for it in the United States.

"In addition to the drawbacks already mentioned there is the want of a local market, which he cannot avail himself of to any extent here, and by the time he has sent his products to England, which is fully 10,000 miles away, there is very little return for his time and labor, in consequence of the great distance, freight, insurance and commissions and other leakages of various kinds. And the discomfort and serious inconvenience of bad roads, for in the north of the North Island of New Zealand it would be difficult in the winter season to find means to find means to the world." The reason of this is that the country referred to consists largely of yellow clay and punice, and that, for 100 miles a stretch, there is little or no good road material.

First Vested in the Maoris. The condition of land ownership in New Zealand is an interesting study. By treaty with the British government all the lands of the colony were vested in the Maoris (natives) and could be alienated except by their consent. But early in the history of the colony the Pakeha (European), with his usual crafty cunning, began to manifest his superior intelligence over the poor, unsophisticated Maori by acquiring large areas of the very best land in the colony for almost nothing. Thus this scheme of disposing the natives of their birthright continued until the most fertile and easily developed lands had been largely acquired both by individuals and companies in numerous blocks of 100, 600 acres and over. It is charged against the church missionaries that they were as great sinners in the acquisition of valuable lands as were the laymen. The dispossessing nature of the present land system involves the principle of state ownership of the soil, with a perpetual tenancy in the occupier. Most of the crown lands are now disposed of for terms of 999 years. The rentals are based on the assessed value of the land at the time of disposal, without increase, securing valuable lands are, as a rule, low. The limit that a selector may hold is so fixed as to encourage the class of small farmers, and the so that the amount he may select is left entirely to himself. The act defines the amount of land any one may select at 640 acres of first class or 2,000 acres of second class land, inclusive of any land he may already hold. The government has also encouraged settlement in some cases by advancing money for the cultivation of rented lands.

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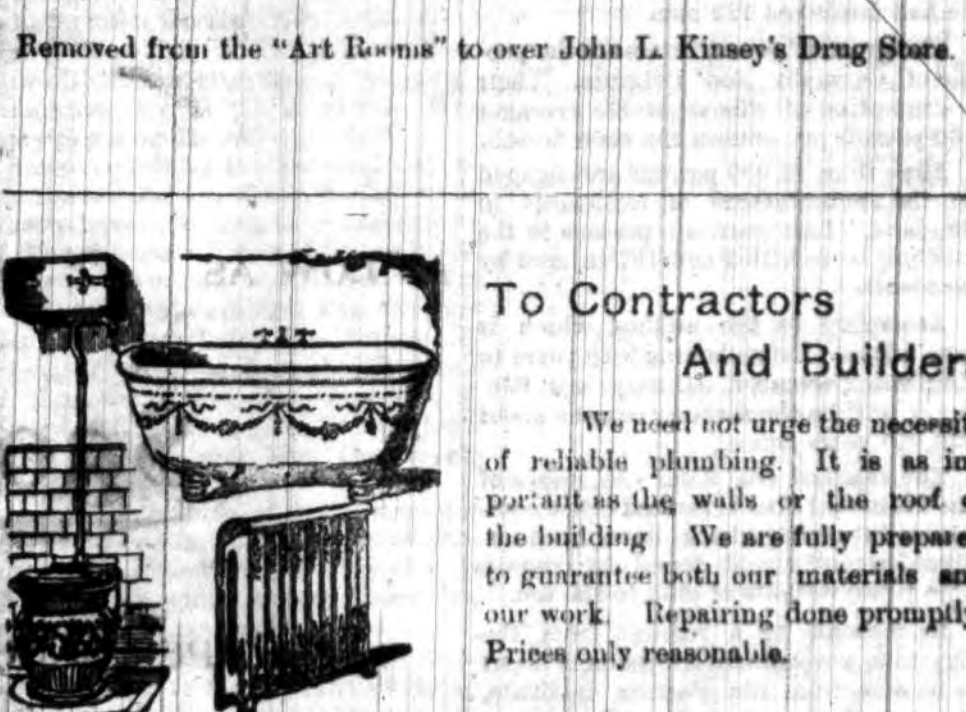
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